

On Saturday, July 6, His Majesty The King inspected on the ground thirty-eight units of the Royal Air Force and reviewed a large number of the machines in a fly-past.



THE YEAR that has PASSED

A Review of 1935 : Unprecedented Development on the Military Side and a Promise of Big Things Ahead in the Civil Aviation Sphere

LOOKING back on the records and achievements of the year 1935, one finds that for the Royal Air Force it has been a time of stir and excitement, of aspirations fulfilled or about to be fulfilled, and to some extent a feeling of coming into its own, in place of the hope deferred which for so many past years has made the heart sick. For civil flying, on the other hand, it has been a year of quiet progress seasoned with the promise of much better things shortly to come. That hope, there is every reason to believe, will not be deferred beyond the expected twelve months.

It was in 1923 that the Government, with Mr. Baldwin at its head, drew up a programme of fifty-two Home Defence squadrons as an immediate necessity. The be-

ginning of 1935 saw only forty-two of them in existence. During the previous year had come the revelation that Germany, in disregard of the Treaty of Versailles, had built up an air arm of formidable proportions, and seemed likely to go on increasing it, and the British Government at once decided that our Air Force must be expanded in the interests of mere security. The first programme, in fact, had to be itself expanded, and the final decision, announced in May last, was to treble the strength of the Air Force, so that it should have a strength of 1,500 first-line machines by the end of March, 1937. Work on this programme has taken up most of the energies of the Air Ministry and of the Air Force during the past year.

The supply of so many more aircraft had to be accom-

OUTSTANDING 1935 MILITARY TYPES. From the Bristol 142 civil monoplane shown below a high-speed medium bomber is being developed. In its civil form the 142, with two 605 h.p. Bristol Mercury VIIs, does 268 m.p.h. The A.W. XXIII (left) is a new bomber transport with two 760 h.p. Tiger VI engines. (Flight photographs.)

